

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2942

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (ABOUREZK, JAMES AND EAGLETON, THOMAS F.)

SUBJECT: CODEL ABOUREZK/EAGLETON AUDIENCE WITH HM KING KHALID

SUMMARY: SENATORS ABOUREZK AND EAGLETON'S APRIL 17 MEETING WITH KING KHALED WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY CROWN PRINCE FAHD, FOREIGN MINISTER SA'UD AND ADVISOR PHARAON. CONVERSATION CONCENTRATED ON SUPPORT FOR EGYPT, WITH SAUDIS URGING MORE US AID, AND ON THE ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL. THE SAUDIS REITERATED THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS OBLIGED TO CONTINUE BOYCOTT POLICY AS LONG AS IT IS A POLICY OF THE ARAB LEAGUE, BUT THEY EMPHASIZED THAT THE ARAB STATES DO NOT BOYCOTT JEWISH FIRMS OR INDIVIDUALS PER SE, BUT RATHER FIRMS WHO LEND SUPPORT TO THE ZIONIST STATE.

KING KHALED WAS NOT THE SOLE SPOKESMAN AT THE MEETING FOR THE SAUDI SIDE; STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY THE KING, CROWN PRINCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER AND ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION A STATEMENT BY THE KING WAS RE-INTERPRETED BY THE CROWN PRINCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER. THE SAUDIS MADE CLEAR THAT THEY WANT THE UNITED STATES TO HAVE STRONG TIES WITH ALL ARAB STATES AND THAT RECENT SAUDI ACTIONS SHOULD CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE TO THE US THAT THEY ATTEMPTING ENCOURAGE MORE ARAB STATES

TO ADOPT MORE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE US. END SUMMARY

1. CALL BY SENATORS ABOUREZK AND EAGLETON WAS ATTENDED ON THE SAUDI SIDE IN ADDITION TO HIS MAJESTY KING KHALED, BY CROWN PRINCE FAHD, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SA'UD AND ROYAL ADVISOR RASHAD PHARAON. AFTER THE USUAL GREETINGS, SENATOR ABOUREZK POINTED OUT THAT EAGLETON HAD JUST
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VISITED EGYPT AND HAD TALKED WITH THE EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP.

EAGLETON'S FIRST QUESTION TO THE KING WAS WHAT IS SAUDI ARABIA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS EGYPT'S COMPLETE BREAK WITH THE SOVIET UNION? THE KING REPLIED INDIRECTLY BY SAYING THAT WE SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT SAG HAS NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION. HE THEN DIGRESSED TO RECALL THAT IN THE EARLY 20'S THE HIJAZI GOVERNMENT DID HAVE RELATIONS WITH THE YOUNG SOVIET NATION AND THAT THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE HIJAZI GOVERNMENT WAS IN FACT DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. THE KING POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE RUSSIAN MILITARY TYPES FLYING THE AIRCRAFT FOR THE HIJAZI FORCES. IT WAS THE RUSSIANS WHO BROKE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SAG WHEN THE KINGDOM WAS UNIFIED, AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND, SAID HE.

2. CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND FONMIN PRINCE SAUD CONTINUED THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION BY SAYING THAT THERE WILL BE CONTINUING SAUDI AID TO EGYPT, THE CONFRONTATION STATES, AND ALSO TO OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. THE SAUDIS' CAPABILITY FOR AIDING THE OTHER ARAB STATES IS LIMITED HOWEVER TO FINANCIAL AID; THEY CANNOT PROVIDE HARDWARE SO BADLY NEEDED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY ARAB STATES. IT IS NOW THE OBLIGATION OF THE U.S. TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING TOWARD THE ARAB WORLD AND TO PROVIDE MILITARY, FINANCIAL AND OTHER KINDS OF AID, SUCH AS FOODSTUFFS. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EGYPT, IN PARTICULAR, GET THIS AID FROM THE U.S., OTHERWISE SADAT WILL BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE INTERNALLY.

3. SENATOR ABOUREZK INQUIRED ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF HIS MAJESTY TOWARD ATTEMPTS IN THE U.S. TO BREAK THE ARAB BOYCOTT AGAINST ISRAEL? THE CROWN PRINCE INITIATED THE REPLY BY SAYING THAT THE ARAB BOYCOTT IS NOT A UNILATERAL ACTION OF SAUDI ARABIA, BUT RATHER THE COMBINED AND LONG-LASTING ACTION AND POLICY OF SOME TWENTY ARAB STATES. AT THIS POINT, THE INTERPRETER HAD THE KING SAYING, "WE DIDN'T INITIATE THE BOYCOTT; IF LEFT TO SAUDI ARABIA ALONE, THERE WOULD BE NO BOYCOTT AT ALL, BUT WE, THE SAUDIS, MUST SUPPORT THE COMBINED ARAB POLICY." THIS STATEMENT IN ENGLISH LED TO A DISCUSSION BETWEEN PRINCE SAUD THE CROWN PRINCE, AND THE KING, WITH THE INTERPRETER CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE. THE INTERPRETER THEN SAID, "LET'S BACK UP; THIS WAS MY MISTAKE. HIS MAJESTY DID NOT ACTUALLY SAY WHAT I INTERPRETED TO YOU; RATHER HE SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA, LIKE ALL OTHER ARAB STATES, IS OBLIGED TO CONTINUE THIS POLICY." CONFIDENTIAL

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IT WAS THEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE ARAB STATES DO NOT BOYCOTT JEWISH FIRMS OR JEWISH INDIVIDUALS PER SE, BUT RATHER FIRMS AND INDIVIDUALS WHICH LEND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE ZIONIST STATE. SAUDI ARABIA DOES NOT SAY THE U.S. SHOULD ABANDON ISRAEL IN FAVOR OF THE ARABS, BUT RATHER THE U.S. SHOULD BE OBJECTIVE AND EVENHANDED IN ITS DEALINGS IN THE REGION. THE ARAB STATES NEED U.S. AID ALSO.

4. SENATOR ABOUREZK AT THIS POINT EXPRESSED THE VIEWS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY STATED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER: THAT U.S. ITSELF HAS A LAW ON THE BOOKS WHICH FORBIDS TRADING WITH ANY STATE WITH WHICH WE ARE AT WAR. THE SITUATION BETWEEN THE ARAB STATES AND ISRAEL IS ANALAGOUS TO THIS. HIS MAJESTY REPLIED THAT THE SAG APPRECIATES SENATOR ABOUREZK'S COMPREHENSION OF THEIR POLICIES AND ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE BOYCOTT.

5. SENATOR ABOUREZK THEN POSED A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION: WHAT IF ALL OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ANTI-BOYCOTT AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION MEASURES WHICH ARE CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION WERE PASSED INTO LAW. WHAT WOULD SAUDI ARABIA'S REACTION BE? THE CROWN PRINCE LAUGHED AND SAID, "WHY SHOULD WE ANTICIPATE NEGATIVE EVENTS IN THE FUTURE? LET'S WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS." THERE WAS ANOTHER DISCUSSION BETWEEN PHARAON, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND CROWN PRINCE. PHARAON THEN SAID IF THE U.S. SHOULD TAKE A STAND AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE ARAB STATES. "WE CAN GO ELSEWHERE TO DO BUSINESS, BUT WE HOPE," HE SAID, "IT WILL NOT COME TO THAT." PRINCE FAHD SAID THIS IS A VERY SENSITIVE ISSUED THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH VERY CAREFULLY BY ALL SIDES CONCERNED AS IT GREATLY AFFECTS THE INTERESTS OF ALL SIDES CONCERNED. THE U.S. AND SAUDI ARABIA MUST STUDY THE ISSUE VERY CAREFULLY. SAG WANTS TO MAINTAIN THE FRIENDSHIP OF THEIR ARAB BROTHERN AS WELL AS THAT OF THE U.S. FAHD FURTHER SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN RECENT TENDENCY OR TREND FOR THE U.S. TO LOSE FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD. "WE (SAG) WANT TO REVERSE THIS TIDE. WE WANT THE U.S. TO HAVE STRONG TIES WITH ALL ARAB STATES AND OUR RECENT ACTIONS SHOULD CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE TO THE U.S. THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO CAUSE MORE ARAB STATES TO ADOPT/FRIENDLY AND WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S." HE ALSO STATED THAT ABOVE ALL, SAG WANTS JUSTICE, BECAUSE JUSTICE IS THE BASIS FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND FURTHER SAG WANTS OBJECTIVITY AND EVENHANDEDNESS. AS THE VISITORS ROSE TO LEAVE, HIS MAJESTY REPEATED THE LAST STATEMENT AS IF TO UNDERSCORE
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ITS IMPORT.

6. FOREGOING WAS NOT CLEARED WITH SENATORS EAGLETON AND ABOUREZK.
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